

for deportation under his administration. The fear is compounded because DREAMers trusted the government with their home and work addresses, school information, family details, and other personally identifiable information.

My office has received hundreds of calls and emails from Californians who have been admitted to the program, their families and friends, as well as others who support DACA because they have seen the benefit to their communities. I would like to share just some of the feedback I have received. A professor from the University of San Francisco shared that a student sobbed in her arms in the first class after Election Day. And a wife from Forest Lake feared that her husband's status would be revoked and their family could be separated.

She wrote, "Under a Trump presidency, I, a U.S. citizen, may need to leave my home and start a new life in Mexico. Family is family, and where my husband goes, I go."

This is unacceptable and not the America I know. We can't allow whole communities in this country to live in fear.

Upon his election, President-Elect Trump said he wants to be the President for all Americans. I would urge him to meet some of these young people. He would see that DREAMers are fiercely patriotic.

He would see that, in every way that matters, DREAMers are Americans. They were educated here, they work here, they pay taxes, and they contribute to communities across America.

And he would see that they want to be accepted and integrated into American society.

Unequivocally stating that he will not overturn DACA and will not target DREAMers for deportation would send a strong message that President-Elect Trump is serious about turning the page from the toxic campaign rhetoric and being a President for all Americans.

In the event that President-Elect Trump doesn't change course, Senators DICK DURBIN and LINDSEY GRAHAM have committed to introducing legislation to extend deferred action status for those who currently have it.

I will join this effort. I want to be crystal clear: this Senator will not sit by and do nothing if these young people are targeted for deportation.

We have a moral obligation to do all we can to shield the DREAMers from deportation and keep their families together. This is not a matter of politics. This is about what is right as Americans and human beings.

Denisse, Oscar, and Seung deserve the opportunity to earn their medical degrees. Jamie deserves the opportunity to continue teaching. They and other DREAMers deserve the opportunity to give back to their country—the United States of America—and I pledge that I will work to give them that opportunity.

NOMINATION OF MARY McELROY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I join with my fellow Senator from the State of Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, to urge this body to confirm Mary McElroy to the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Ms. McElroy is an eminently qualified and dedicated public servant whose nomination was reported unanimously to this body by the Judiciary Committee in January of this year. She, along with 20 other district court nominees from States represented by Members from both sides of the aisle, has undergone the required rigorous vetting process and passed through committee only to have her nomination stalled on the floor of this body. We should confirm all of these nominees right now before the 114th Congress draws to a close.

I have been proud to support Mary's nomination at every step of this process. Her legal career has spanned more than 20 years from her time as a paralegal in the Rhode Island Attorney General's office while attending law school at night, clerking for Associate Justice Donald F. Shea of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, private practice, and her work in the State and Federal public defender offices. Throughout her career, she has shown the highest levels of integrity and professionalism and earned the respect and support of Rhode Island's law enforcement community.

It is a shame that this Congress may come to a close before Mary can receive what I am sure would be a very strong floor vote in favor of her confirmation. Mary has the full support of her home State and the legal community to assume this role and no assertion to the contrary has been made at any time since her nomination by the President. Should we not take up and pass her nomination this week, as we should have for all these intervening months since the action by the Judiciary Committee, it is my hope that her nomination returns to this body and is given a fair hearing swiftly in the new year.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with all of the comments made by Senator REED. With 90 judicial vacancies in our Article III courts and 32 judicial emergencies, there is no excuse for failing to confirm nominees who have been reported to the Senate floor.

Mary McElroy has undergone the nomination and committee processes with grace and dignity. These processes are intense and time-consuming. She, her husband, Bob, and their two children, have put their lives on hold in order for her to accept this responsibility as a public servant. Mary and the 20 other district court nominees awaiting a floor vote—many of whom have waited for over than a year—should be confirmed immediately.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of my friend, the Senator from Nevada, and the Democratic leader, HARRY REID. Senator REID's career on Capitol Hill began long before any of us.

Back in 1961, Senator REID came to work at the U.S. Capitol for the first time, though not as a Member.

While Senator REID was working his way through Law School, he spent his nights as an officer for the U.S. Capitol Police, the force that protects the U.S. Congress, in order to support his family.

Senator REID is an inspiration to us all and an incredible fighter.

By the way, I do mean that literally. We all know about his early career as a boxer.

In fact, two champion "Boxers" in the Senate are retiring at the end of this session, and we are going to miss both of them.

I also mean that HARRY REID never gives up.

When he was in high school, he walked 40 miles twice a week so he could get an education.

When he and his wife Landra fell in love—he was told by her family that they could never be together. They have had a lifelong love affair and are so proud of their five children and now their grandchildren.

From the beginning in public service, Senator REID has fought for the best interests of the people of Nevada and the American people.

In the Nevada State Assembly, he wrote Nevada's first air pollution legislation and worked on issues like consumer protection and public land usage.

As chair of the Nevada Gaming Commission, he ignored threats and cleaned up the gaming industry.

Since being elected in the Senate in 1987, Senator REID's accomplishments are almost too numerous to count. The list goes on and on. Through it all, he has never ever given up. He has fought to defend the environment of his beautiful home State.

He made strides in combatting ALS—writing legislation creating a registry that provides researchers with the critical knowledge they need to combat that terrible disease.

He has shepherded some of the most critical legislative accomplishments in the past 8 years through the Senate.

He led the effort to create and pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saving millions of jobs. He helped our economy begin to recover.

He was responsible for making sure the ACA passed in 2010. So many people have gotten the care they have needed, their lives have been saved, by the work that he has done.

As leader of the Caucus, he has been responsible for bringing so many of us into this Chamber.

He said it himself: "You have to stand up, even when you think you're not gonna win, if you think something's right."

He stood up. He fought the good fight. He fought for all of us. I know that he still have so much to give.

Senator, thank you for your incredible service. Thank you for being such a generous and wonderful friend to me and to my family. I wish you, Landra, and your family many more years of happiness and good work. We will all miss you dearly.

TRIBUTES TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, as she retires after three decades in the U.S. Senate.

Senator MIKULSKI has been serving the people of Maryland in one form or another for more than 50 years.

From her time as a social worker helping at-risk children and seniors, to the Baltimore City Council, to her four decades of service in the United States Congress, Senator MIKULSKI has always been a strong champion for women, for working families, and for Maryland.

On the rare occasion I have found myself on the other side of an issue from Senator MIKULSKI, as we in Virginia occasionally have been, I actually find myself wishing Maryland had a little bit less of a tenacious advocate in the Senate than BARBARA MIKULSKI.

But luckily for me, I have much more often had the good fortune to be standing side-by-side with Senator MIKULSKI.

I have been proud to work with her and learn from her on a great many issues which will remain her legacies even after she leaves the Senate.

In her position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, for instance, Senator MIKULSKI has been instrumental in making sure the Federal Government abides by its commitments to Metro, and we have worked together to improve oversight of the system's safety.

In an environment where they are more often treated as political punching bags than like the dedicated public servants they are, Federal employees have always known that they can count on Senator MIKULSKI to have their backs.

Senator MIKULSKI might occasionally have trouble reaching the microphones—but when it comes to the issues affecting women, children, working families, and Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI's voice is nearly always the loudest voice in the room.

Today there are more students in school, more women in the workforce, and fewer seniors living in poverty as a result of her determination and her leadership.

It is well known in this body that Senator MIKULSKI is a force of nature, with a wit to match.

Her signature one-liners aren't just funny—though they usually are—but she also has a way of cutting to the heart of the issue and speaking directly to people that I know will be greatly

missed by both her colleagues and her constituents.

It is no surprise that the people of Maryland have chosen, over and over again, to send this extraordinary leader back to the Senate on their behalf.

Today there are 20 women Senators, but when BARBARA MIKULSKI first decided to “suit up” and run for the Senate, women in public office at any level were a rarity indeed—rarer still in this body.

Thirty years after President Reagan, campaigning for her opponent in that first Senate race, predicted that BARBARA MIKULSKI would go the way of other short-lived fads like the “Edsel, the hula hoop, and the all-asparagus diet,” Senator MIKULSKI retires from the Senate as the longest serving woman in Congressional history.

So while she may be leaving us here in the Senate, one of Senator BARB's greatest legacies may be inspiring generations of American women to follow in her footsteps.

Senator MIKULSKI, thank you for your service and your friendship.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my colleague Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the dean of the Senate women. When she took office during the 100th Congress in 1987, BARBARA was the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right. There were only two women Senators at the time, BARBARA and Nancy Kassebaum. Certain expectations that we could consider arcane, such as women were expected to wear skirts or dresses on the floor, were still in place. In 1993, BARBARA, Nancy, and their staffs mounted a simple protest—they wore trousers on the Senate floor.

“The Senate parliamentarian had looked at the rules to see if it was okay,” she recounted. “So, I walk on that day and you would have thought I was walking on the moon. It caused a big stir.”

As someone who rarely wears skirts and only wears pantsuits on the Senate floor, I and many others are grateful. This simple act of commonsense defiance, if you will, in a body steeped in tradition, exemplifies BARBARA's approach to getting things done and getting on with the important matters of the day. That she is a trailblazer goes without saying.

Throughout her time in the Senate, BARBARA has fought for equal pay for equal work. The gender pay gap costs women hundreds of thousands of dollars over their lifetime. She led the charge in the Senate to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and I am proud to stand with her in calling for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and other equal pay proposals.

As our dean, usually over dinner, we get to know each other on a personal level. In a body where these opportunities are rare, it matters. During the summer of 2014, it was my turn to host our gathering. I greeted each Senator with a lei, served local food from Hawaii, and hosted a hula performance.

The Aloha spirit was definitely present.

The next day, BARBARA told me that the dinner was very special and gave her a better understanding about what it must be like to be in Hawaii. It meant a lot to me for BARBARA to make that observation because Hawaii truly is a special place where embracing and caring for others, our ohana, is how we aspire to live.

BARBARA has shown her Aloha spirit to me and so many others throughout her time in public service. I will miss her wit, leadership, drive, and compassion.

Aloha, BARBARA, and a hui hou, “until we meet again.”

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the contributions of my colleague and friend, Senator BARBARA BOXER. While her distinguished time in the House and Senate comes to a close at the end of the 114th Congress, she will continue to be engaged and serve her community.

During her more than 30 years in the House and Senate, BARBARA worked tirelessly to create a better future for all Americans. When she first announced that she would run for the Senate in 1990, BARBARA declared, “I will be running based on issues of the environment, a world of peace, economic prosperity, individual freedom of choice and freedom of the arts.”

This declaration defined her time in Congress.

Becoming the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works reflected her decades of dedication to protecting the environment. BARBARA was unafraid to take on big oil, and fought to block oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. She also led the effort in the Senate to invest in the development of clean energy technology and to strengthen protections for our oceans.

BARBARA knew that, for many, achieving “economic prosperity” meant attaining a college education. But the soaring cost of college keeps them from attaining a degree. Each year, BARBARA was one of the strongest leaders to ensure that college students have access to Pell grants, which nearly half of college students in our country depend upon. BARBARA's advocacy moved the ball forward, and I was proud to join her in crafting a caucus-wide bill that included our provisions to strengthen and protect Pell grants, and lower interest rates on student debt.

BARBARA also never forgot her promise to protect “freedom of choice.” She authored the Freedom of Choice Act of 2004, which would have affirmed that “every woman has the fundamental right” to make her own reproductive health decisions. Without fail, BARBARA leads us each and every time that access to reproductive health care comes under attack.